THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) At present there is no comprehensive statute on regulation of broadcasting services. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposed Broadcasting Service Regulation Bill. A consultation paper along with the draft of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2006 giving the details have been posted on the Ministry's website *www.mib.nic.in* for inviting comments by 11th September, 2006 from the general public including various stakeholders.

Use of electronic media

2164. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Doordarshan is commissioning serial on "use of electronic media for social change and empowerment on the State of Gujarat";

(b) if so, the producer selected for this serial;

(c) the procedure followed for selecting the producer;

(d) whether the established procedure of Doordarshan has been followed;

(e) the terms and conditions of the agreement with the producer; and

(f) whether Doordarshan is aware about the criminal charges against the selected producer?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has approved a project namely, "use of electronic media for social change and empowerment on the State of Gujarat". However, Planning Commission has since decided to drop this project.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Inspection of equipment of media companies

2165. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to bring forward any legislation that gives sweeping powers to the bureaucracy to inspect, search and seize equipment belonging to media companies on a mere complaint against them; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for bringing that legislation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a comprehensive legislation to regulate broadcasting services. A need has also been felt to consult the media in the matter. It is therefore difficult to give final views on the proposal.

Spread of FM Radio

2166. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently, opening of 76 FM radio stations have been awarded to private parties;

(b) if so, how much rural and urban areas will be covered by their range;

(c) whether there is any perspective planning of Government to cover hundred per cent rural areas, especially in North East through spread of FM Radios; and

(d) if so, as private parties may not be bidding for such FM Radios whether Government would set up its own radio stations there?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The fact is that besides 21 operational private FM radio stations of Phase I, Government has issued Letters of Intent (LoI) for setting up of additional 243 private FM radio stations in 37 cities across the country, out of which 6 have already become operational.

(b) All private FM radio stations allocated till now will be located in urban areas (87 cities). The coverage range of the transmitters may spillover to nearby rural areas also.

(c) and (d) Due to technical and financial constraints, it is not possible to cover 100% of rural areas by FM radio coverage at present. However,